A special relief package of measures for persons/business affected by the earthquake in Gujarat has been announced by the Reserve Bank of India on 12th February, 2001. This includes freezing of recoveries and extension of new loans on liberal terms for SSIs in the affected areas. The Government of Gujarat has also announced a package for rehabilitation of earthquake affected industrial units including Small Scale and Cottage Industries on 25.02.2001. The package provides for SSI sector, the need based bankable loan assistance for two years, recovery of electricity charges on actual consumption basis for one year, exemption from stamp duty and assistance for repair of damaged building, plant and machinery. For Cottage Industries, the package provides assistance for tool kits for artisans, local self-employed and handicraft artisans, assistance for temporary sheds for artisans, providing infrastructure facilities in Rural Industry Development Centres and setting up of Handloom and Handicraft Parks.

Space Research and Development Centres in Rajasthan and Orissa

4282. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has any proposal to set up Research and Development Centres in Rajasthan and Orissa during 2001-2002 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take or have taken till date in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) ISRO does not have any proposal for setting up Research and Development Centres in Rajasthan and Orissa states during 2001-2002.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Norms and Guidelines for Satellite Communication

4283. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have announced "Norms and Guidelines for Satellite Communication" in the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that an American Company 'Panamsat' has applied to the Foreign Investment Promotion Board to make an investment in setting up a subsidiary in India to market satellite services in the country;

(d) whether any decision has been taken in the matter and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the case would be decided within the parameter of "Norms and guidelines" of satellite communication framed in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has framed Satellite Communication Policy laying down norms and guidelines relating to the use of INSAT capacity for private and non-government users. The INSAT Co-ordination Committee (ICC) will earmark capacity for use by non-government users. Department of Space (DoS) is authorised to provide this capacity to the non-government users following the prescribed procedures. The policy allows the use of foreign satellites only if similar capacity or capability does not exist in Indian satellites. Indian companies with Foreign Direct Investment of less than 74% are allowed to establish satellite systems.

(c) and (d) PanAmSat India Inc. has applied to Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) for setting up fully owned subsidiary in India, and the same has been approved by the Government.

(e) The case has been decided within the parameters of the above mentioned Satellite Communication Policy.

Re-Usable Launch Vehicle

4284. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) plans to build re-usable launch vehicles;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the likely amount of savings by re-use of launch vehicle; and

(d) by when work on the project is likely to be taken up ?